

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9 and 14-20.

The specification has been objected to because the Office Action states that the specification fails to provide proper antecedent basis for a means for actuating and fastening and a fastening actuator.

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that a fastening means connects the tank structure to a fastening surface of a motor vehicle component. These features are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the objection.

Claims 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended the claims paying close attention to the Examiner's remarks. Specifically, Applicant has amended the claims to address the antecedent basis issues and to improve the overall form of the claims. It is Applicant's position that the claims as now presented are clear and fully conform with the requirements of the statute. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider the claims as now presented.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokochi et al. (U.S. 6,123,216).

The present invention relates to a tank for holding at least one liquid, such as oil or gasoline. Conventional techniques of mounting a tank to a motor vehicle component include openings that are provided on a circumference of the tank wherein screws are inserted through the holes to secure the tank to the motor vehicle component. Applicant has discovered that the holes located on the circumference of the tank make it extremely difficult to mount such conventional tanks in poorly accessible areas of the motor vehicle. This disadvantageously makes it extremely labor intensive to mount the conventional tank, which drastically increases manufacturing costs. Applicant has solved this problem by providing a tank that has a fastening means that has at least a portion that is surrounded by the tank volume without the tank leaking. This advantageously provides an extremely compact tank that can be easily positioned and mounted, even in areas of the motor vehicle that are extremely difficult to access. The prior art as a whole fails to disclose such features and such tank space efficiency advantages.

Yokocho et al. discloses a double-chamber tank 1. A first storage tank 1A of the double-chamber tank 1 is provided on its upper surface with an inlet port 23 for admitting gasoline into the first storage tank 1A. This inlet port 23 is provided at an upper portion thereof with an external thread 23a for allowing a cap to be engaged therewith. The first storage tank 1A is provided with a circular hole 35 for allowing a grommet 61 to be attached thereto. The double-chamber tank 1 is provided at the fore and rear portions thereof with mounting plate portions 11 and 14 having bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17 and are adapted to be attached by means of bolts 81 and 82 to the mounting portions which are distributed to three

bottom portions of the prime mover sections 101 of a bush cutter 100 as indicated by 131 and 132. The bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17 are respectively constituted by a pair of holes 32 and 52, a pair of holes 28 and 56, and a pair of holes 37 and 57, all of which are formed in the upper split counterpart 20 and the lower split counterpart 40, respectively. The mounting plate portions 11 and 14 are also respectively constituted by a pair of mounting plate portions 31 and 51, and a combination of mounting plate portions 34, 53 and 54, all of which are formed in the upper split counterpart 20 and the lower split counterpart 40, respectively.

Yokocho et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion for the combination of at least one fastening means that is surrounded by a tank volume as claimed. At most, Yokocho et al. discloses bolts 81 and 82 that extend through bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17 located at mounting plate portions 11 and 14. However, the bolts 81 and 82 and the bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17 of Yokocho et al. are located along a periphery of the double chamber tank and not one of the bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17 or the bolts 81 and 82 are surrounded by a tank volume as featured in the present invention. Compared with Yokocho et al., at least one of the fastening means of the present invention is surrounded by a tank volume wherein a portion of the fastening means extends from a location adjacent to the tank volume to a position located outside of the tank volume. This advantageously provides a tank that is more space efficient since less space is taken up as a result of the fastening means being surrounded by the tank volume. This advantageously allows the tank to be positioned and mounted in confined areas of the motor vehicle. Yokocho et al. does not disclose such a compact tank as featured in the present invention because the bolts 81 and 82 are not surrounded by the tank volume of the double

chamber tank 1 as claimed. Figure 2 of Yokochi et al. clearly shows that the bolt-holes 12, 16 and 17, holes 32 and 52, holes 28 and 56, and holes 37 and 57 are located on an outer circumference of the double chamber tank 1 without any of the holes 12, 16, 17, 32, 52, 28, 56, 37 and 57 being surrounded by the tank volume of the double chamber tank 1 as recited in the claimed combination. As such, the prior art as a whole takes a completely different approach and fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 1, 9 and 15 as now presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Claims 7, 13 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokochi et al. in view of Alleaume (U.S. 3,511,003). Although Alleaume teaches a fixed land device that constitutes a closed, fluid-tight enclosure, the references as a whole fail to suggest the combination of features claimed. Specifically, Yokochi et al. provides no suggestion or teaching for the combination of at least one fastening means that has a portion that extends from a position within a duct that is surrounded by a tank volume to a position located outside of the tank volume. As such, the references together do not teach or suggest the combination of features claimed. One of ordinary skill in the art is presented with various concepts, but these concepts do not provide any direction as to combining the features claimed. Accordingly, all claims define over the prior art as a whole.

Favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted  
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